

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)	
INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY FOR)	CASE NO. INT-P-05-1
WAIVER OF THE ATMOSPHERIC)	
CORROSION INSPECTION RULE (IDAPA)	NOTICE OF PETITION
31.11.01.201; 49 C.F.R. § 192.481(a)))	
)	NOTICE OF MODIFIED
)	PROCEDURE
)	
)	ORDER NO. 29885
)	

On September 14, 2005, Intermountain Gas Company (Intermountain Gas, Company) filed a Petition for Waiver of the rule regarding atmospheric corrosion control inspection frequency with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Commission). With this Order the Commission authorizes the use of Modified Procedure and establishes a deadline for the submission of comments and/or objections.

THE PETITION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that according to its Petition, Intermountain Gas seeks a waiver of the federal pipeline safety rule that requires each operator to inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere for evidence of corrosion at least once every three years. This requirement is set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 192.481(a). The Commission adopted this federal regulation with IDAPA 31.11.01.201.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company states it is requesting the waiver only for residential meters. Separate code requires yearly routine maintenance on its commercial and large volume meters, and consequently the atmospheric corrosion inspections are done along with the required yearly maintenance. The Petition states that in July 2003, the Company installed automated meter reading (AMR) systems for residential and commercial meters. Prior to July 2003, meter readers, on foot, would perform a visual inspection of the above ground facilities in conjunction with their meter reads. With the Company's implementation of AMR there is no longer any regular maintenance need or requirement to visit each residential meter on an annual basis.

NOTICE OF PETITION
NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE
ORDER NO. 29885

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Intermountain Gas states it has never experienced atmospheric corrosion or safety-related conditions resulting from atmospheric corrosion on its residential or commercial meters in the entire history of its operations, dating back to 1955. The Company states that the dry, arid environment in which it operates as well as the fact that the entire steel pipeline is cathodically protected is the reason they have not experienced any corrosion in the last 50 years.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that as a condition of the waiver, Intermountain Gas proposes to perform the atmospheric corrosion inspection of residential meters and associated piping in conjunction with the appropriate business district or non-business district leak survey schedule. The Company states that non-business district leak surveys are performed every four years, and business district leak surveys are conducted annually. The Company states that approval of the waiver to allow the atmospheric corrosion inspections to coincide with the annual business district and four-year non-business district leak survey schedules will help the Company to maximize operating efficiencies without jeopardizing corrosion safety requirements.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petition together with supporting workpapers, testimonies and exhibits (if any), have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The Application and testimonies are also available on the Commission's website at www.puc.idaho.gov under the "File Room" icon and then "Multi-Utility Cases."

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has reviewed the filing of record in Case No. INT-P-05-1. The Commission has preliminarily determined that the public interest may not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case and that issues raised by the Company's filing may be processed under **Modified Procedure**, i.e., by written submission rather than by hearing. IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. In so doing, the Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission may not hold a hearing in this proceeding unless it receives written protests or comments opposing the use of Modified Procedure and stating why Modified Procedure should not be used. IDAPA 31.01.01.203.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no protests or written comments are received within the deadline, the Commission will consider the matter and enter its Order without a hearing. If protests or comments are filed within the deadline, the Commission will consider them and may, in its discretion, set the matter for hearing or decide the matter and issue its Order on the basis of the written positions before it. IDAPA 01.01.01.204.

NOTICE OF COMMENT/PROTEST DEADLINE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person desiring to state a position on this Petition may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission within twenty-one (21) days from the service date of this Notice. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that written comments concerning this case should be mailed to the Commission and to the Company at the addresses reflected below:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address For Express Mail:
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5983

Eldon Book, Sr. Vice President
Intermountain Gas Company
PO Box 7608
Boise, ID 83707
E-mail: customerinput@intgas.com

Morgan W. Richards
Attorney at Law
804 E. Pennsylvania Lane
Boise, ID 83706

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's homepage located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Comments and Questions" icon, and complete the comment form, using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to the Applicant at the address listed above.

FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS


The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has jurisdiction over Intermountain Gas Company, its Petition, and the issues involved in this case by virtue of Title 61, Idaho Code, specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-115, 61-116, 61-117 and 61-129, and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

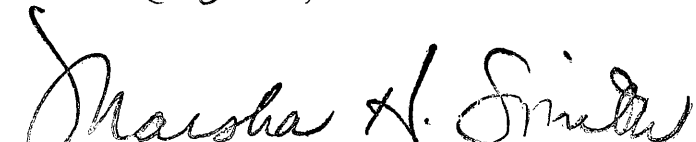
The Commission has preliminarily determined that the public interest may not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case, and that issues raised by the Company's filing may be processed under **Modified Procedure**, i.e., by written submission rather than by hearing. IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. In so doing, the Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

ORDER

IT IS HERBY ORDERED that this case be processed under Modified Procedure. Persons interested in submitting written comments regarding this case or protesting the use of Modified Procedure should do so no later than 21 days from the service date of this Order.

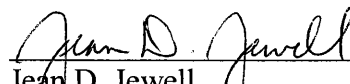
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 4th day of October 2005.


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER


DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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